

5/29/15

TALKING POINTS FOR RED HILL MEDIA AVAILABILITY, Monday, June 1, 2005, 10:15 am

INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW: (DEAN)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Hawaii State Department of Health are announcing a proposed agreement that has been signed by the U.S. Navy and the Defense Logistics Agency regarding the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility near Pearl Harbor.

The purpose of the proposed Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) is to ensure that the groundwater resource in the vicinity of the Facility is protected and to ensure the safety of Oahu's drinking water supply.

At the same time the AOC seeks to ensure the operation and maintenance of the Facility in an environmentally protective manner, allowing the Red Hill tanks to remain in use as a resource for our national defense.

All work to be performed will be developed in consultation with and subject to the approval of EPA and DOH, and monetary penalties may be imposed in the event the work is not conducted in accordance with the AOC's deadlines and requirements.

Monitoring results for the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam water system and Board of Water Supply systems in the area continue to confirm both systems are in compliance with federal and state drinking water standards both before and after the January release at Tank 5.

(NEED TO VERIFY THAT HBWS IS STILL MONITORING AND IN COMPLIANCE)

AOC TECHNICAL SPECIFICS: (KEITH)

The AOC commits the Navy and DLA to install improved technologies for fuel release prevention and detection at the facility.

The AOC requires the Navy and DLA to conduct a feasibility study, to be submitted within two years, that evaluates a range of tank upgrade options.

Also within the next two years, the AOC requires that the following will be done:

- Conduct an analysis of the hydrogeology of the area surrounding the Facility,
- Study the extent of contamination caused by previous fuel releases,
- Evaluate potential cleanup methods, and
- Assess the risk the facility poses to Oahu's drinking water resources.

Upon the completion of hydrogeological modeling, additional groundwater monitoring wells will be installed between the Red Hill tanks and the Honolulu Board of Water Supply's drinking water wells.

Each of the massive underground storage tanks that are in-service will be upgraded in phases over the following 20 years.

The Navy and DLA will double the frequency of its tank tightness testing from biennial to annual

NEXT STEPS: (DEAN)

The proposed AOC will be available for comment for a period of 30 days beginning today, and a public meeting to discuss it will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2015 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Moanalua Middle School cafeteria, 1289 Mahiole Street, Honolulu.

For more information and to submit comments, please visit: EPA WEBSITE and [HYPERLINK "<http://health.hawaii.gov/RedHill>"].

After reviewing public comments, EPA and DOH may sign the AOC to make it effective, or may seek to modify it based on information received during the comment period.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Is Oahu's drinking water supply safe?

To date the release of fuel from the Red Hill Facility has not impaired the use of drinking water supply wells in and around the Red Hill Facility.

Will Oahu's drinking water supply be monitored?

Yes. Drinking water wells in the areas surrounding the Red Hill Facility are already regularly monitored, and samples are analyzed for chemicals of concern. The AOC provides for the installation of additional groundwater monitoring wells in areas between the Red Hill Facility and the Honolulu Board of Water Supply drinking water wells. Upon the completion of the hydrogeological modeling of the area additional groundwater monitoring well locations will be identified.

Are there any fines or penalties imposed for the January 2014 release?

No. The AOC establishes a strict timeline for the Navy and DLA to complete the various tasks, including interim milestones to ensure progress is being made. The Navy and DLA are subject to monetary penalties in the event they do not meet the timelines in the AOC.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY: (FOR Reference if needed)

In January 2014, while refilling Tank 5, the Navy identified a loss of jet fuel from the tank and reported it to DOH, estimating that about 27,000 gallons was released. The Navy drained the tank and collected samples from existing water monitoring wells.

Results of samples taken around Tank 5 indicated a spike in levels of hydrocarbons and Navy increased the frequency of monitoring at a nearby Navy drinking water well.

Current monitoring results for the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam water system confirmed they were in compliance with federal and state drinking water standards both before and after the January release.

The Facility, constructed in the 1940s, consists of 20 underground bulk fuel storage tanks built into a mountain hillside. Each tank is 250 feet tall and 100 feet in diameter, constructed of steel and encased in a minimum of 2.5 to 4 feet of concrete surrounded by basalt bedrock. Each tank has a fuel storage capacity of 12.5 to 12.7 million gallons, giving the Facility a maximum capacity of approximately 250 million gallons. Eighteen tanks are currently active, and two are not in use.